

IN THE CLAIMS

In this Response, Claims 5, 7-10, 15, 19, 21, 23 and 25-29 have been amended. New Claims 39-48 have been inserted. The Response filed on February 13, 2004 included two claims listed as Claim 35. In this Response, Applicant has canceled the second Claim 35 (now identified as Claim 35A), and replaced this claim with new Claim 40.

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the medical device is a stent.

3. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the drug is a light-sensitive drug or a UV-radiation sensitive drug.

4. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 3, wherein the light-sensitive drug comprises actinomycin D, paclitaxel, or vincristine.

5. (currently amended) A coating for a medical device, ~~the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV-radiation, the coating~~ comprising:

(a) a ~~polymer~~first layer containing a drug and a polymer;

(b) a ~~topcoat~~second layer containing a polymer disposed over the ~~drug-polymer~~first layer;

and

(c) a light- and/or UV-protective compound included in the ~~topcoat~~second layer, wherein the mass ratio between the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer in the second layer is between about 3:1 and about 1:3.

Claim 6 (canceled).

7. (currently amended) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound is additionally included in the ~~drug-polymer~~first layer.

8. (currently amended) A coating for a medical device, the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV-radiation, the coating comprising:

- (a) a ~~polymer~~drug layer containing a drug and a polymer;
- (b) a topcoat layer disposed over the drug[[-polymer]] layer, the topcoat layer free from any drugs; and
- (c) a film-forming layer disposed over the topcoat layer, wherein a light- and/or UV-protective compound is included in the film-forming layer.

9. (currently amended) A coating for a medical device, the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV-radiation, the coating comprising:

- (a) a ~~polymer~~drug layer containing a drug and a polymer; and
- (b) a light- and/or UV-protective compound included in the ~~coating~~drug layer, wherein the mass ratio between the drug, the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer is between about 1:1:2 and about 1:3:20.

10. (currently amended) The coating of Claim 9, additionally comprising:
a polymeric primer ~~polymer~~ layer deposited between a surface of the medical device and the drug[[-polymer]] layer.

11. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.

Claims 12 and 13 (canceled).

14. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 9, wherein the medical device is a stent.

15. (currently amended) A method for fabricating a medical article, ~~the method~~ comprising forming a coating onto a medical device, wherein the coating comprises a ~~polymer~~first layer containing a drug and a polymer, a ~~topcoat~~second layer containing a polymer disposed over the ~~drug-polymer~~first layer, and a light- and/or UV-protective compound included

in the ~~topcoat~~second layer, wherein the mass ratio between the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer in the second layer is between about 3:1 and about 1:3.

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the drug is a light-sensitive drug or a UV-radiation sensitive drug.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein the light-sensitive drug comprises actinomycin D, paclitaxel, or vincristine.

Claim 18 (canceled).

19. (currently amended) A method for fabricating a medical article, ~~the method~~ comprising forming a coating on a medical device, wherein the coating comprises a ~~polymer~~drug layer containing a drug and a polymer, a topcoat layer disposed over the drug[[-polymer]] layer, the topcoat layer being free from any drugs, and a film-forming layer disposed over the topcoat layer, ~~and~~wherein a light- and/or UV-protective compound is included in the film-forming layer.

Claim 20 (canceled).

21. (currently amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound is additionally included in the drug[[-polymer]] layer.

Claim 22 (canceled).

23. (currently amended) The method of Claim 15, additionally comprising a polymeric primer ~~polymer~~-layer deposited between a surface of the medical device and the drug[[-polymer]] layer.

24. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.

25. (currently amended) The coating of Claim 5, wherein ~~the mass ratio between the light- and/or UV-protective compound and a polymer of the topcoat layer is between about 3:1 and about 1:3~~second layer is free from any drugs.

26. (currently amended) A coating for a medical device, ~~the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV radiation, the coating comprising:~~

(a) a polymer;

(b) a drug included in the polymer; and

(c) ~~carbon black included in the coating~~one or more layers of coating material, wherein at least of the layers of the coating material includes a polymer, a drug and a compound capable of absorbing radiation having a wavelength in the UV and/or visible light spectrum, and wherein the mass ratio between the drug, the compound and the polymer is between about 1:1:2 and about 1:3:20.

27. (currently amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein the ~~mass ratio between the light and/or UV protective compound and a polymer of the topecoat layer is between about 3:1 and about 1:3~~second layer is free from any drugs.

28. (currently amended) A method for fabricating a medical article, ~~the method comprising forming a coating onto a medical device, the coating having increased resistance to light and/or UV radiation, wherein the coating comprises~~comprising applying a coating formulation to the medical article, the coating formulation including:

(a) a polymer

(b) a drug; and

(c) a light- and/or UV-protective compound, wherein the mass ratio between the drug, the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer is between about 1:1:2 and about 1:3:20.

29. (currently amended) The method of Claim 28, wherein the medical ~~device~~article is a stent.

30. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.

31. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 9, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.

32. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the medical device is a stent.

33. (previously presented) A coating for a medical article, comprising:

(a) a polymer

(b) a drug; and

(c) a light- and/or UV-protective compound, wherein the mass ratio between the drug, the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer is between about 1:1:2 and about 1:3:20.

34. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 33, wherein the medical device is a stent.

35. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 33, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.

Claim 35A (canceled).

36. (previously presented) The coating of Claim 8, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.

37. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein the medical device is a stent.

38. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.

Please insert the following New Claims:

39. (new) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the thickness of the second layer is between about 100 nanometers and about 4 micrometers.

40. (new) The coating of Claim 8, wherein the medical device is a stent.

41. (new) The coating of Claim 8, wherein the thickness of the film-forming layer is between about 100 nanometers and about 4 micrometers.

42. (new) The method of Claim 15, wherein the thickness of the second layer is between about 100 nanometers and about 4 micrometers.

43. (new) The method of Claim 19, wherein the thickness of the film-forming layer is between about 100 nanometers and about 4 micrometers.

44. (new) The coating of Claim 5, wherein the second layer is configured to reduce a rate of release of the drug from the first layer after the medical device is inserted into a patient.

45. (new) The method of Claim 15, wherein the second layer is configured to reduce a rate of release of the drug from the first layer after the medical device is inserted into a patient.

46. (new) A method of coating a medical device, comprising applying a first coating composition including a drug and a polymer to the medical device, and applying a second coating composition over the first coating composition, the second coating composition including a polymer and a light- and/or UV-protective compound, wherein the mass ratio between the light- and/or UV-protective compound and the polymer in the second composition is between about 3:1 and about 1:3.

47. (new) The method of Claim 46, wherein the medical device is a stent.

48. (new) The method of Claim 46, wherein the light- and/or UV-protective compound comprises carbon black or gold.